



The President's Daily Brief

22 August 1970



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in Cambodia is summarized on
Page 1.

In Thailand, Prime Minister Thanom's recent parliamentary defeat over the new budget has underscored the widespread dissatisfaction with his leadership.
(Page 2)

The Soviets apparently gave Ulbricht some last-minute assurances before the formal Warsaw Pact approval of the Soviet - West German treaty.
(Page 3)

[redacted]
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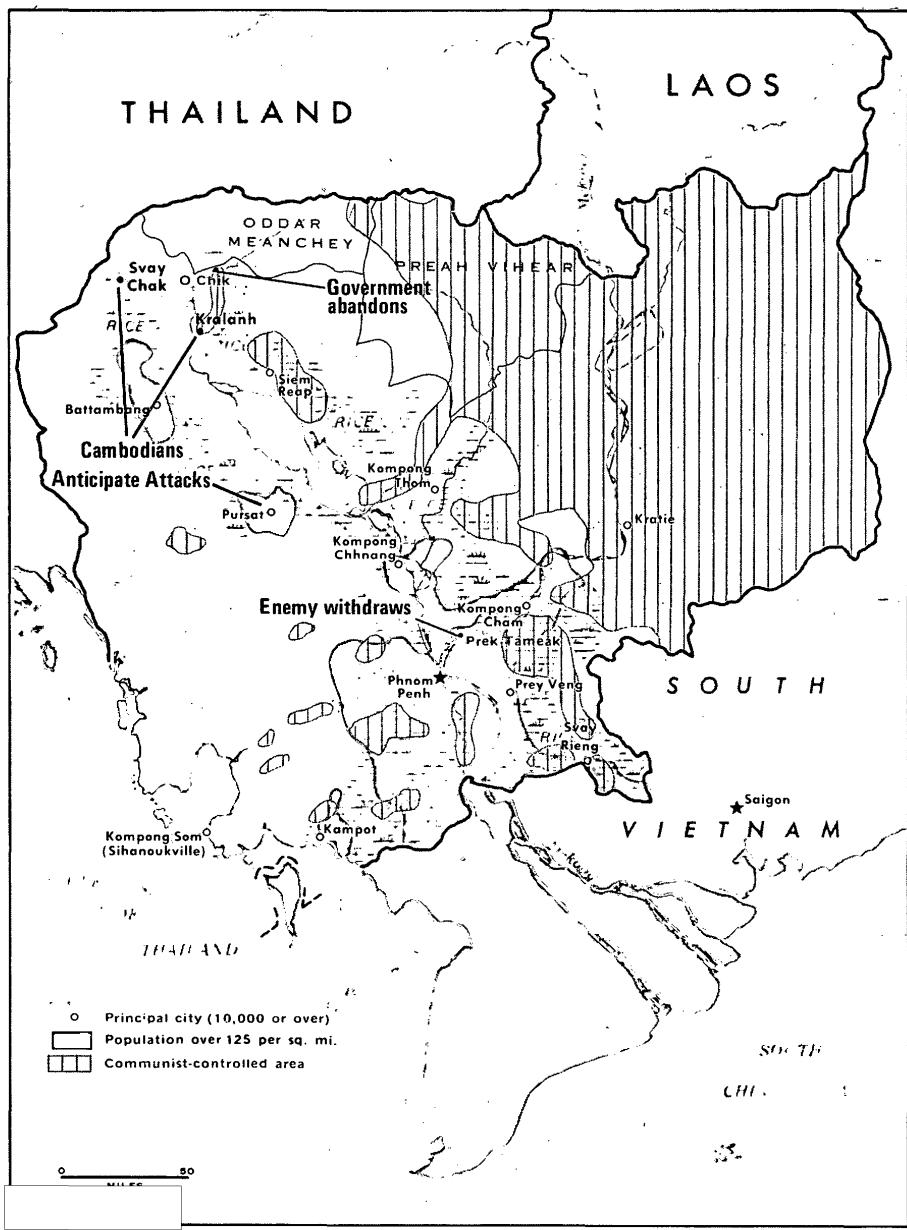
[redacted]
Israel. *(Page 4)*

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A new Soviet space probe to Venus--the second this week--failed early this morning.
(Page 4)

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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Government forces have repulsed the Communist attack on Prek Tameak, and the enemy has withdrawn into the surrounding countryside. Other enemy units south of Prek Tameak succeeded in lobbing several mortar rounds into government positions on the east bank of the Mekong less than two miles from Phnom Penh.

Communist forces continue to be active in Oddar Meanchey Province. An intercepted military message indicated that government forces abandoned the village of O Chik on 21 August. The Cambodians are calling in air strikes on the village.

Since the fall of much of neighboring Preah Vihear Province to the Communists at the end of June, enemy activities have intensified in Oddar Meanchey, where ill-prepared government forces seem to be having difficulty countering the enemy thrusts.

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THAILAND

A group of dissidents in the government's Saha Pracha Thai (SPT) party recently joined opposition members in the parliament to defeat Prime Minister Thanom in the second round of the fight over the new budget. Opposition members now have a one-vote majority on the 37-man committee responsible for reviewing and amending the 1971 budget and are in position to alter it considerably if they vote as a bloc.

The rift over the budget has surfaced a widening breach within government ranks. Many members of the parliament, including members of the SPT, have been pressing Thanom for increased recognition and responsibilities, and for constitutional changes which will give the legislature more power. They are also urging Thanom to reshuffle the cabinet to reflect current Thai political realities.

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USSR - EASTERN EUROPE

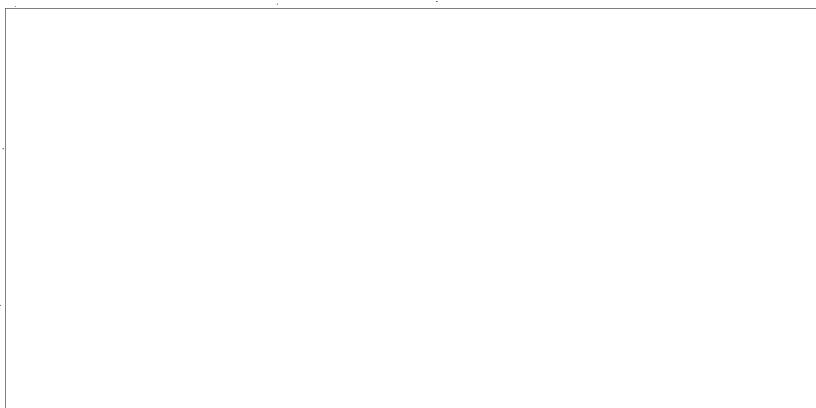
That Moscow summit session with Eastern European leaders took only a few hours to wrap up views concerning the West German treaty and agreement on pressing ahead with a conference on European security.

The primary reason for the brevity is that no Eastern European nation with the exception of East Germany has any problem with the forthcoming Soviet reaction to Brandt's Ostpolitik. Moscow apparently took precautions to soothe Ulbricht in advance of the leadership meeting. Ulbricht flew in to Moscow on the 18th, two days before the summit session.

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NOTES



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USSR: The Soviets apparently failed in an attempt to send a space probe toward Venus early this morning. [redacted]

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[redacted] Another Venus probe was launched successfully on 17 August and should reach its destination in mid-December.

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